



[www.westernclimateinitiative.org](http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org)

## **Western Climate Initiative Update**

August 27, 2007

On February 26, 2007, Governors Gregoire (WA), Kulongoski (OR), Napolitano (AZ), Richardson (NM) and Schwarzenegger (CA) signed an agreement establishing the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). The purpose of the initiative is to collaborate in identifying, evaluating and implementing ways to reduce GHG emissions and to achieve related co-benefits.

Since February, Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, and Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba have joined the Initiative as full partners.

Currently the following jurisdictions are participating as official observers: the U.S. States of Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, and Wyoming; the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan; and the Mexican State of Sonora.

On August 22, 2007, the WCI partners released their regional goal to collectively reduce emissions, consistent with previously established state and provincial goals. Details on the WCI regional goal (to reduce emissions 15% below 2005 levels by 2020) can be found at [www.westernclimateinitiative.org](http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org).

By August 2008, the partners will design a regional market-based multi-sector mechanism, such as a load-based cap and trade program, to help achieve the goal. Each of the partners has joined the newly formed GHG registry (The Climate Registry). The Climate Registry is expected to be operational by January, 2008. More information about The Climate Registry can be found at [www.theclimateregistry.org](http://www.theclimateregistry.org).

Five WCI subcommittees have recently been established to work on various aspects of the regional program. The five subcommittees are: Reporting, Scope, Electricity, Allocations, and Offsets. Staff from WCI states and provinces will serve on the subcommittees. The subcommittee chairs will establish a process for obtaining input from technical experts and stakeholders.

It is the intention of the Governors and the Premiers to expand the partners in the initiative to include other states, tribes, and provinces who share their commitment to aggressively address climate change.

New partners are invited to sign the February 26, 2007 agreement, committing to the goals of the initiative. As stated in the agreement, it is expected that any state or province wishing to become a partner will have set a goal to significantly reduce GHG emissions and committed to adopt clean tailpipe standards for passenger vehicles, in addition to committing to the overall goals of the initiative.

The partners have also offered observer status to states, tribes, or provinces that are interested in pursuing greenhouse gas reductions.

Each of the WCI partners will separately conduct stakeholder outreach and involvement with interested parties in their jurisdictions. In addition, the partners will collectively host periodic conference calls and provide written updates on the progress of the initiative. Documents will be posted to the WCI website as they become available.

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